(b) Reserve Bank of India has already clarified through the print and electronic media that all the 500 rupee notes issued by it continue to be legal tender and should, therefore, be accepted for all transactions. Public Sector Banks have also been asked to instruct all their branches to continue to freely accept 500 rupees notes for all transactions.

Appointment of CEOs in Banks

1294. SHRI GOPALRAO VITHALRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the Ministry of Finance sitting tight on appointments of bank CEO;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a section of the banking community fears that without many senior bankers around to fill in the posts, powerful corporates may end up playing a major role in influencing the Ministry's pick and choose game; and

(c) what are the priorities of Government in CEO appointments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (c) At present the post of Chairman and Managing Director is vacant in Canara Bank, Bank of Baroda, UCO Bank, Dena Bank and Punjab National Bank. Action has already been initiated to fill up these vacancies, in accordance with the provisions of the Banking Companies (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertakings) Act, 1970/1980 and the proccedure prescribed for such appointments.

Avoidance of Custom Duty by Changing Cargo

1295. SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the import cargo is changed illegally to avoid payment of the custom duty resulting in huge losses and leakage of revenue;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make it mandatory for shipping agencies, to use the best avaibale anti-theft device viz. tamper free locks; and

(c) if so, by when, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN ATHE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR): (a) No case of substitution of containerised

cargo before customs clearance has been brought to the Government's notice.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Publishing of Koranic Prayer with SBI Logo at Bank's Cost

1296. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Branch Manager (Development and Personnel) of State Bank of India's main Branch at Chennai has published huge number of copies of Koranic Prayer with SBI logo over it at Bank's cost;

(b) if so, what is the cost of these books published in the New Art Printers, Akbar Sahib Street Chennai; and

(c) whether it is also a fact that these books are to be distributed through the network of SBI branches all over the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: (a) to (c) The State Bank of India (SBI) has reported that their Zonal Office Ernakulam, and not their Chennai Main Branch had got printed 2000 copies of Koranic prayers with SBI logo from New Art Printers, Chennai at a cost of Rs. 9/- per copy. Non Resident Indians as well as valuable Muslim constituents who have sizable deposit connections with branches in Kerala State were greeted with the prayer book during the month of Ramzan.

Ratio of Capital Expenditure

1297. SHRI DINA NATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the year-wise ratio of capital expenditure to the Budget for 1990-91 onward, till date;

(b) whether it is showing declining trend;

(c) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(d) what action Government propose to take to reverse the trend?